

Psychology class publishes shocking findings

Cameron Johnson
Zach Dresch

You may doubt it now, but O'Gorman may not be as safe as you might think.

This past October, 17 O'Gorman students in AP Psychology conducted a test to prove how safe the school really is.

In their test, the AP Psychology class started an administration-approved experiment involving a visitor, minus the visitors pass, to walk around the O'Gorman hallways on two separate occasions.

Even though the trial was a simple idea, it took a few weeks for it to get into action.

"It took a few weeks because we had trouble finding people and administration had to approve it," said AP Psychology student Krystal Badillo.

Their test involved an African American male, around the age of twenty years old, walk a set path throughout both floors of every wing and by the administration

office, before exiting through the door by the band/choir room.

"I'm kind of scared actually," said senior Badillo. "But not enough to worry about it every day."

To get accurate results, they conducted two different trials.

The first trial had the male wear clothes that would make him stand out at O'Gorman, such as workout shorts and a gray sweatshirt.

The second trial, however, made him blend in more, wearing a polo and jeans.

The visitor went largely unnoticed, with the exception of a run-in with theology teacher Mr. Rutten. Rutten only asked the person about a recent sporting event.

"It has been an AP class assignment for years," said Badillo. "We just came up with the topic of safety because [Michael] Promes is in our class and with the whole lock down thing we thought we had a lot of experience with the subject."

The lock down in May of 2008



ZACH DRESCH / KNIGHT SCROLL

Michael Promes, Rhianne Ammann and Hollie Zwart look over their work in AP Psych class.

sparked major interest in generating the experiment.

The event sparked enough controversy to begin questioning the school safety of O'Gorman High School.

"I think that when we have

lockdown drills people don't take them seriously," said senior student Michael Promes.

"I think it was a good simulation to get people to realize that it could actually happen."

However, the lock down in

2008 did help the school to maintain a safer surrounding for the faculty and students.

"It was kind of a bad situation, but we got something good out of it," said Promes.

Catholic school renovates

Connor Johnson
Staff Writer

Local elementary St. Mary's has recently been able to expand and renovate the school.

St. Mary's has had two classrooms, a multi-purpose classroom, a new drop-off/playground area, and also an interior early child playground added on. The school was also linked from the lower level to the upper level of the church.

"We needed more classroom space to accommodate a full two-section school that addresses all educational needs of our students," said principal Courtney Tielke.

Two kindergarten classes will be using the new rooms.

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ELLEN NELSON / KNIGHT SCROLL

Governor-elect Dennis Daugaard and his niece, junior Molly Amundson, spend time together at his house.

Recent election ignites hope, helps restore South Dakota culture

Ellen Nelson
Assistant Editor

The weeks before the 2010 election were filled with mudslinging campaigns and personal attacks. However, after many debates, discussions, and ads, the election is over.

Kristi Noem won Stephanie Herseth-Sandlin's seat in the House of Representatives by a close margin of just over two percent of the vote. Measure K, the right to private ballot in all elections, passed 79.1% to 20.9%. The smoking ban passed and legalizing marijuana for medical purposes failed.

Defeating Scott Heidepriem with 61.5% to 38.5%, Lt. Gover-

nor Dennis Daugaard will replace Mike Rounds as Governor.

Governor Elect Daugaard served with Rounds for eight years. "I was really excited because I knew he would make a good governor," said Daugaard's niece and O'Gorman junior Molly Amundson.

Now that he is elected, Daugaard plans on balancing the state budget to get South Dakota "on a more fiscally conservative track", keeping South Dakota "a business friendly environment", and to return more authority back to local school districts.

"I'm grateful to be elected. I'll work hard and try my best," said Daugaard.

School environment more beneficial than teacher salary alone

C.J. Schrier
Staff Writer

It pays to be a teacher at O'Gorman.

However, the superintendent of the school system says staff members' reward is not necessarily measured in dollars and cents.

"There is a lot of give and take with any job," says O'Gorman psychology teacher and SFCS alumna Mrs. Amy Muller. "I wanted to go into something where I helped people."

Unfortunately the give and take often results in a salary less than state and national averages.

A first year teacher in the Sioux Falls public school system earns about \$32,000 per year

This is just slightly lower than the total average SFCS teacher salary of approximately \$34,000.

The first year teacher salary within the Catholic school system is markedly lower than both state and national averages.

Dr. Tom Lorang points out that while average SFCS salaries are comparable between systems, the salaries for first year teachers fall short.

"With our benefits we are the top quartile in the state," said Dr. Lorang. "With our salary we are close to average in the state but

compared to big schools it's low."

Even so, O'Gorman continually boasts high quality teachers, drawn less by the money and more by the environment.

Muller says she is attracted by the community and the people.

"The big push for O'Gorman is to provide quality education for an affordable cost," said Muller. "It is hard to raise salaries and keep tuition low."

Dr. Lorang noted a low staff turnover rate.

"Teachers remain within the system because of the mission," said Dr. Lorang.

"Time to time people move because of pay, but it is not very often," said Lorang.

Senior students agree as well.

"The theology and foreign language departments seem to change a lot but otherwise it seems like everyone likes it here at O'Gorman and change does not seem likely," said Emily Adcock, an O'Gorman senior. "I know I wouldn't personally want to keep a job with such a low salary, but all the teachers here seem to be just loving life."

Despite pay discrepancies, Dr. Lorang says he rarely, if ever, hears complaints from faculty.

See **SALARY** page 2

Letter from the Editors

Dear O’Gorman,

Hello! We are proud to present the Christmas edition of the *Knight Scroll*.

Our adviser recently reminded us that our continual presentation of what goes into this issue is highly routine and probably not very interesting.

Instead, this time, we aim to provide insightful commentary on a real-time issue of O’Gorman.

After much soul-searching, we finally hit upon what we believe to be a prevalent issue at this high school.

Are you ready for this? Stress.

It seems that as the snow begins to fall and the semester begins to wrap, students are feeling the stress of daily school life.

Seniors are stressed about classes and college applications.

Juniors are stressed about the bombardment of homework they have been receiving.

Sophomores and freshmen are stressed about...oh, wait. They’re sophomores and freshmen.

They don’t have enough to be stressed about.



As Zach likes to say, “The only thing freshmen have to be worried about is if their parents deleted the Wiggles off their DVR.”

Obviously, with such strain overwhelming the student population of O’Gorman, we feel it is our duty to offer a helping hand.

With that, we present to you: *Scroll* Editors’ Guide to Dealing with Stress.

(Yes, the title could use some work.)

So, here are five handy-dandy tips to combat and alleviate the stress in your life.

1. Buy a Panic Pete. If you’re wondering, Panic Pete is basically a giant stress ball, whose eyes, nose, and ears pop out when squeezed. It’s oddly satisfying.

2. Get a banjo. You can’t look at a banjo and not smile.
3. Buy a puppy. Or just go to the pet store and play with them. Either way, you can’t be unhappy next to a puppy!
4. Give someone a hug. Anybody really. But preferably people you actually know.
5. Finally, and probably most practically, take a nap! Just forget about your worries, retreat to a comfy chair, and relax.

In fifteen minutes, your troubles won’t seem quite as monumental anymore.

So, with these five tips, we hope to make your life a little less strained.

If nothing else, we hope you smiled while reading this.

If you didn’t enjoy it, just keep it to yourself.

With that, we leave you to reading the rest of this issue, and we hope you enjoy it.

Tune in the following months for more enlightening commentary from your very own *Knight Scroll* editors!

Sincerely,
Shilpa & Zach

SALARY Continued from page 1

“To their credit, because I know it is really tough for some of these people,” he said.

Like many private educational institutions, O’Gorman has established an endowment and is active-ly campaigning.

The fundraising focuses on capital improvements, tuition as- sistance and teacher salaries.

Dr. Lorang said improving teacher salaries has become a focal point of the endowment.

He believes that is indeed a necessary and core part of the campaign’s mission.

“Campaign leaders would not be leaders if improving teacher salaries wasn’t part of our com- mitment,” he said.

A majority of donors designate salaries as the primary target of their contributions, he added.

Several opinions exist on ap- propriate levels of compensation in an occupation which includes mostly daytime hours and summer breaks.

“I think about what a nurse makes would be fair,” said Muller.

“[Teacher salaries] are probably so low because teachers technically get all weekends, holidays, and the summers off.”

Adcock believes teacher sala- ries should rank higher than many other occupations across the na- tion.

After all, these teachers are the ones shaping the minds of the fu- ture contributors to the country.

“These are the people that teach the future brain surgeons and Einsteins of our age,” said Adcock. “Why shouldn’t they be making the same as the ones whom they teach?”

Muller said hopeful teachers are educated early on as to sal- ary expectations, including factors such as location and experience.

Therefore, pay is not a surprise once they agree to the profession itself.

Clearly, the salary was not a make or break element in her de- cision-making process.

“I either wanted be a teacher or a nurse,” she said.

Unlike Muller, some potential applicants are dissuaded from ap- plying.

“Some don’t want to work be- cause of the mission and some because of the money,” said Dr. Lorang.

However, he tips his hat to those who have signed on.

“Our teachers really appreciate the kids and our mission,” he said.

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Letters to the Editor

All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All let- ters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

Editorial Policy

All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the *Knight Scroll*.

Scroll Fun Find

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Father Mason discovers faith through poverty

Father James Mason
Guest Writer

About 6 months ago Msgr. John Esseff asked me if I would be willing to help him give some retreats to the superiors of the Missionaries of Charity.

This year would be Mother Teresa's 100th birthday and he wanted to honor her by offering the leaders of her Order individually directed retreats.

Msgr. Esseff was one of Mother Teresa's spiritual directors and has remained very close to the Order. I have been giving her sisters retreats around the country for the last 6 years.

I was asked to be on the team going to Calcutta and to lead the retreat in February in Haiti.

In Calcutta we would be giving the General Superior, Sr. Prema and Councilors for the worldwide 5,000 Missionaries of Charity, a silent directed retreat.

The sisters are truly amazing and their witness to voluntarily embrace poverty and ministry to the "poorest of the poor" reminded me how radical our call is to follow Jesus Christ.

The thousands of people on the streets, washing and gathering



Father James Mason

their things from the night, the cows freely walking around the streets, buses with the windows removed crammed with riders, were immediate reminders I was not in Sioux Falls.

We often think of poverty only in the sense of a material lacking of food or clothing but one form of poverty that is often not thought of is what I would call the "Poverty of Privacy."

That is, because the poor living on the streets experience no real privacy, the sisters embrace this life by having no individual bedrooms or cells but having 30-50 cots in a room.

My room was a converted hallway with windows looking into the

chapel, kitchen and walk-way.

It took a little getting used to but was certainly more "private" than what the sisters experience.

Another form of poverty experienced could be called the "Poverty of Silence."

Once again, the poor on the streets experience no real silence and the sisters, often living in the heart of this poverty also have the noise of constant traffic of vehicles, airplanes over head, the cries of the residents, the Muslim call to prayer...

The long trip home gave me time to pray and reflect on what a wonderful gift we have in our Catholic faith and the Eucharist.

The sisters readily admit that it is only because of Christ in the Eucharist that they are able to live this radical life of love.

This is the same Eucharist that each one of us receives and when received with faith will also allow us to live the call that Mother Teresa says each one of us has received, "To do ordinary things with extraordinary love."

Father James Mason serves as pastor at St. Lambert Parish in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Seniors incorporate prayer, togetherness at Holy Spirit Parish

Josh Jorgenson
Staff Writer

The senior class is preparing for their lives in many different ways; one of those is the senior retreat.

This year's retreat was at Holy Spirit on Oct. 20. The theme was, "Living Well, and Living Out Loud!"

"We really wanted to emphasize that the seniors are leaving and to give them skills both mentally and physically," said Campus Minister Mr. Jonathan Konz.

"The directors wanted to emphasize that there is a God that loves them, and they are amazing," said Konz.

Every one there took a little out of it, and reached this by playing games and completing activities.

Activities included a group discussion, Bible verses, the wellness game, and squirrel in a tree.

"The retreat was good," said senior Phil Dagostaro. "It helped me focus on prayer."

Senior Abby Leafsteadt enjoyed the retreat as well.

"We learned that people grow in their faith from many different circumstances, and we got to express our ideas," said senior Abby

Leafsteadt.

"The retreat had room for 30 students, but only 18 spots were claimed," said Konz. "For a retreat like this 18 out of 30 people is perfect. It is easier to work as a group in whole."

The retreat was not mandatory, but there is talk of making this a mandatory retreat.

"It is different than the sophomore and junior retreats because this one is about preparing them to take care of themselves," Konz said.

Konz is happy with the retreat, including the turnout. The students seemed to enjoy the retreat.

"With this not being a mandatory retreat the kids are students first, academics need to be a priority, so they might not all be able to get the time to go on the retreat," said Konz.

The retreat was a beneficial day for the seniors.

"We talked about prayer, and received tools to help us in our faith," said Dagostaro.

With Mass and adoration at the end of the day, the seniors had time to apply their new tools. Everyone involved grew in faith. Seniors have another chance to go on Feb. 9 at Holy Spirit Parish.

Pope John Paul II brings spiritual inspiration to youth

Olivia Stebbins
Nicole Scheier

Despite the personal losses Pope John Paul II encountered early in life, he managed to overcome those obstacles in order to lead and inspire many millions of people.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Josef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland in 1920. He endured an emotionally strenuous childhood through the deaths of his mother and brother. His mother died when he was only nine years old and his brother followed three years after her.

In 1939, Wojtyla moved to Krakow with his father in Jagiellonian University, where he was required to undergo military training.

He refused to fire a gun because of his strong pacifist beliefs. His father died of a heart attack in 1941. Later, Wojtyla said, "At twenty, I had already lost all the people I loved."

A time after his father's death, a German truck hit Wojtyla. As a result, he suffered a concussion and the Germans brought him to hospital. Believing their kindness and his recovery were a sign, he decided to become a priest.

In 1946, Wojtyla was ordained as a priest on All Saints Day and sent to Rome, where he earned doctorates in theology and philosophy.

Twelve years later, Pope Pius XII appointed him bishop of Krakow, making him the youngest bishop in Poland.

Wojtyla was instrumental in the Second Vatican Council and was appointed archbishop of Krakow by Pope Paul VI in 1964.

Three years later, he was promoted to the Sacred College of Cardinals.

In 1978, the cardinals chose John Paul I as the new pope, but he passed away only 33 days later.

The cardinals had to elect a new pope.

Two cardinals were originally strongly supported, but the College of Cardinals couldn't decide between the two. Wojtyla was chosen as a compromise, winning 99 of the 111 votes.

Wojtyla chose the name John Paul II in memory of his predecessor. He became the first non-Italian pope in 455 years.

Upon his election, rather than having a big ornate ceremony, known as the papal coronation, he

had a simple ceremony, called the papal inauguration.

Pope John Paul II achieved much during his lifetime, including writing 14 papal encyclicals.

He preached on many topics, including the peaceful coexistence of faith and reason, anti-contraception, the need for youth to be instilled with the Catholic faith, the dignity of women, and social doctrine.

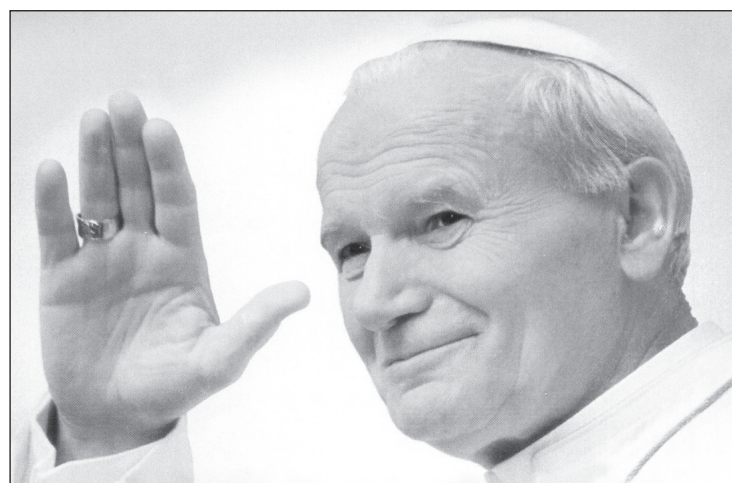
He was a very strong advocate for the youth of the world.

During his pontificate alone, he traveled to 129 countries, logging 750,000 miles. He was the first pope to ever visit the countries of Mexico, Egypt, Ireland, Haiti, and the UK.

His visits always drew huge crowds, but on World Youth Day in 1995, he offered Mass to a crowd of between 5 and 7 million, the largest gathering of Christian people in history.

Pope John Paul II was instrumental in bringing about the fall of communism in Europe, in that he brought spiritual inspiration to people in need.

His speeches, such as his famously quoted "Do not be afraid" speech, gave hope to millions suf-



PRESS PHOTO

Pope John Paul II greets people at the ceremonial Mass at Florida International University.

fering under communism. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev later stated that "the collapse of the Iron Curtain would have been impossible without John Paul II."

In 2004, President George W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian medal of honor, as a sign of appreciation for all he had done.

In May of 1981, Pope John Paul II was entering St. Peter's Square to address the crowd, and a Turkish gunman named Mehmet

Ali Agca, a member of a fascist group, shot him.

The would-be assassin was restrained by a nun and later sentenced to life in prison. The Soviet Union later admitted to being behind the attempt.

He was shot in the abdomen and lost nearly three-quarters of his blood on the way to the hospital. Seven months after the attempted assassination, John Paul II visited Mehmet in prison and forgave him.

See **POPE** page 11

Students celebrate different cultures

Nicole Scheier
Activities Co-Editor

International club provides students the opportunity to learn about different cultures through a variety of activities. This club meets every two weeks on Thursdays.

A major component of international club involves finding a way to celebrate festivities of other countries.

Sometimes they play games that are common in whichever country or culture that they learn about. Also, back in November they had the opportunity to meet with the Danish International Team.

"For the Oktoberfest we made some pretzels and learned a German dance," said Mika. "It was awesome, we had so much fun."

Most of the cultures that the international club explores include countries from where O'Gorman's foreign exchange students originate and also Germany.

"I am an international student from Croatia," said Mika, "I wanted to share my culture and learn more about some other countries in a fun way."

International club provides students with the opportunity to share their own culture, but also gain insight into other cultures and countries.

"International club makes you want to learn more and get a better understanding of other cultures and countries," said Mika.

Quiz Bowl heads to Nationals

Shilpa Chandran
Co-Editor

For the first time, the O'Gorman Quiz Bowl team will be traveling to Nationals.

After an intense national qualifier competition with schools from around the region, only the top two teams qualify.

O'Gorman was proud to win first place and will be going to Atlanta, Ga. in May.

"I expect our team to place in the top five out of the 30 at the tournament," said Mr. Chad LeBrun, adviser to Quiz Bowl.

"I predict we'll do well," said senior John Meyer. "We have smart people; everyone has different abilities and talents."

The members of the team include Peter Petrasko, Marcus Klein, Will Tiensvold, Michael Schlanta, Jonathan Schaefer, Ross Rice, Seongho Yoo, John Meyer, Mitchell Moe and Micah Picasso.

Questions during any given tournament can be from any school subject, from history to literature.



SHILPA CHANDRAN / KNIGHT SCROLL

Members of the Quiz Bowl team practice for their upcoming competition at Nationals.

"The subjects we're given are kind of irregular and not-so-well-known," said senior Mitchell Moe.

"You have to discover the answers on your own; they're not really taught to you in school."

As such, teams need to be prepared on a variety of topics.

The team goes to such sites as the Stanford Quiz Bowl Web site

in order to increase their knowledge as they prepare for the national tournament in Atlanta.

"When we qualified for nationals, the other team was really supportive, even though they didn't have a chance to go to nationals," said Moe.

Having gone to three meets thus far, the team has three more

to wrap up their regular season.

"Although we're focusing on the present tournaments, we're still keeping in mind that we're going to be going against some of the smartest people in the nation," said Moe.

"We will continue to practice really hard for that."

Performing new song poses challenge

Cameron Johnson
Entertainment Co-Editor

The choir has more tricks up its sleeve than just singing this year at the annual Christmas Vespers.

This year, the O'Gorman concert choir, under the direction of Mrs. Cathy Britton, will be performing a new song called "A Christmas Lullaby" originally composed by Dan Forrest.

Currently, Forrest serves as the chairman of the department of music theory and composition at Bob Jones University.

"I think that it is pretty much the most epic piece of music ever," said senior choir student Kelly Stephens. "We take any challenge she [Britton] throws at us and we conquer it, no excuses."

The new song was re-written for the O'Gorman concert choir by the original composer, Forrest. The original piece was entitled "A Basque Lullaby."

Originally, Mrs. Britton and composer Dan Forrest agreed to change the lyrics with commission. Due to high cost to change the lyrics,

Mrs. Britton had to decline.

When Forrest found out where the song would be played, however, he met with his lyricist and publisher and they all agreed to change the song, solely for the O'Gorman Concert Choir.

The concert choir will debut their song at the annual Christmas At the Cathedral and the Christmas Vespers.

"Come check us out," said senior Patrick Peterson. "You won't be disappointed, only mind-blown."



ELLEN NELSON / KNIGHT SCROLL

Mackenzie Holm and Sean Turgeon play the mermaid Annabelle and Prince Edward in the children's play *The Little Mermaid*. Annabelle saves Edward after his ship is torn apart in a storm.

Thespians go under the sea for latest theater production

Olga Zamulko
Opinion Co-Editor

The O'Gorman theater department has been working hard to produce another Children's Show and this time it went under the sea.

This play has been stirring much excitement.

"Nobody has ever done *The Little Mermaid*," said director Mr. Nelson. "It's totally new."

"[Auditions] are long and grueling," said senior Caitlin Woodard.

"I look for a variety of things that showcase the actors' ability," said Nelson.

In the end, the roles are just meant to be. Nelson believes that the show will be a great excitement for the kids.

"There is something for everyone to enjoy," he said.

Ursula is sure to be a kids' favorite. Annabelle, whom Nelson believes the little girls will love, the sailors, and all the other exciting characters add life to the show.

The actors' passion is greatly responsible for the development of the characters.

"I love making people laugh," said Woodard. "My greatest joy is being on stage and hearing the effects of my hard work."

"We're above and beyond my expectations right now," said Nelson. "I'm feeling really good."

Numerous challenges arose while creating this show. The crew had to work extra hard to make it come together. Nelson said that many costumes had to be created from scratch.

Woodard said that the cos-

tumes are very elaborate. "If our acting is horrible, at least we look good."

The greatest challenge was portraying the underwater setting. "We are experimenting with black lights to set the underwater feel," said Nelson. The scenery is important, and techies are spending long hours creating enchanting backdrops.

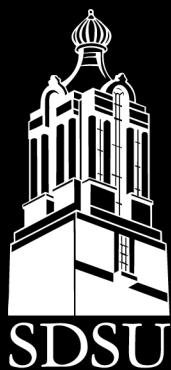
Nelson said that he never liked humans becoming animals because it's even harder to convince the audience. However, he thinks that imagination will help this show succeed.

The Children's Show opened up on December 3. "Seeing it all come together is like magic," said Nelson. "It is always more than I ever expected."

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Girls basketball banks on strong senior leadership

Dusty Haffeman
Faith Co-Editor

With their eyes set on another state tournament appearance, the Lady Knight's basketball squad looks to young talent to pave the way.

This year's team will be rather inexperienced with only three returning seniors and only two starters coming back.

The seniors include Alisa Brown, Meg Townsend and Katy Pillar.

"Our major goal this year is to come together as a team and after that, everything should follow through for us," said senior Alisa Brown.

Brown will be taking her talents to St. Cloud State University next winter.

"I am confident in this year's team. If we go out every night ready to play, I could see us winning the district championship again this year."

Junior point guard Chandler Nielsen will be another main contributor for the Knights this season.

"I feel that this year's team is going to surprise a lot of people and we have a good shot at making big things happen," said Nielsen.

Beginning his 13th year as the head basketball coach, Kent Kolsrud feels that the team will be a factor come tournament time.

Kolsrud is confident that with only three seniors, the junior class will step up to the varsity level and

be counted upon with leadership.

"This group should be extremely coachable, they work hard, and they strive to do their very best," said Kolsrud. "The main areas that we will look to improve on are our man to man defense and on court communication."

The rest of the coaching staff also plays a huge role to the success of the ladies.

Leo Lorang coaches at the junior varsity level. Crystal Richter helps coach at the freshman level.

All of the coaches will help in the success of this year's girls basketball.

They are willing to take time out of their schedule and help the players work on skills and fundamentals.

"They care a lot about the team and always make sure we are prepared and in shape," said Nielsen.

The Knight's toughest opponent will be Washington High School, who won it all last season.

The Knights are still confident that a second straight appearance in the state tournament is in their sights.

"We have players that look to score and also people who are great role players that will help us to a successful season," said Brown.

With lofty goals set this season, Kolsrud and the Lady Knights hope to be a major contender come state tournament time, which will be held in Brookings at Frost Arena this March.

Cheer takes small group title at state

Ellen Nelson
Frankie Maxwell

After a year of competition and hard work, the O'Gorman High School Competitive Cheer and Dance team ended their season with success.

"Our main motivation this year was to exceed last year's team," said sophomore cheerleader Bethany Claussen. "We really wanted to make a name for ourselves this year."

At the beginning of the year the team got off to a productive start due to team connection.

"We grew as a team throughout the year," said junior dancer Chelsey Sehr. "This team is much closer than teams in the past."

With every competition that passed, the team kept improving in their scores.

This gave the team a major boost for performing in future competitions.

"We wanted each performance to be one that we could be proud of," said Claussen.

The team's main goal was to do their best at every competition and they extended their goal to winning the state title.

To make this goal possible, they increased the difficulty of their stunts to make them more challenging and also more fun for the crowd to watch.

The 2010 team bonding helped the Spirit Squad, as the Cheer and Dance team is referred to as, win first place at state this year.



SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The Cheer team poses after placing first in small group competition at the state meet.

Throughout the year Sioux Falls Roosevelt and Brandon Valley have been the team's biggest competition for both the Cheer and Dance teams.

"Roosevelt also has a small team and our scores were very close at many competitions," said Claussen.

"They really stepped up their game this year, so we did as well" said Sehr.

Many people see cheerleading and dancing as an activity rather than a sport.

However, it takes a lot of energy, determination, and discipline along with a lot of muscle.

"It's a lot of hard work," said Claussen. "Which is what I love about it."

Getting to know other people

throughout the year while competing is what Sehr enjoys about the team.

"The team is great because there are girls from different grades and everyone gets along," said Sehr.

With every performance and every competition the team continued to improve and remain consistent with their scores.

"We got first in most of our competitions toward the end of the year," said Sehr.

At state the team did well during their competitions.

"We got first place in kick and jazz," said Sehr. "We also got second in hip hop."

The Spirit Squad ended their year with the state title and accomplished their goal.

Bowling strikes toward another tournament run

Zach Cole
Sam Jacobsen

The bowling teams lost key components last season but look for new leadership among seniors.

"We should have a pretty good season but we need some underclassmen to really step up," said senior JT Donovan of the boys team.

Donovan and Tyler Hurley head up the senior class along with underclassmen help from sophomore Cort Hansen and freshman Austin Serck.

"Serck and Hansen have definitely stepped up their game and will really help us get back to the state tournament this year," said Donovan.

The boys team took third place in last year's tournament and hope to make a good run again this season.

Along with the boys bowling team, the girls also look for new leadership.

However, their leadership stretches across the grades.

Lauren Catangui and Molly Amundson head up the girls team this year along with several underclassmen.

"We should do very well this season as long as everyone steps up," said senior Lauren Catangui.

Both teams look to make it back to the state tournament and go on a deep run.

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